

DSA AB Emergency Response Committee Meeting 2-1-06 Emergency Bins on School Sites

One of the committee members told us a story about emergency bins on a school site that had been placed in 1991 in a joint agreement between the school and city. The city was responsible for keeping the emergency supplies replenished and current. However, over the years both the city and school administration had completely forgotten about their agreement. The emergency bins were locked; no one at the school had the keys. They didn't know who the bins belonged to. They were reluctant to open them. So they moved them to the corporate yard. And there they remained with the 1991 emergency supplies. It was only after someone began looking into this recently, that they were able to piece it all together. Now that they are aware of the situation, they have assigned the supply rotation to a person at the city. The locks are being replaced and they have a system that will allow the city, the fire department and the school to access these bins.

The other concerns that were discussed were that there are inconsistencies in placement of the bins on the sites, sometimes under power lines, if fire lanes or other inappropriate locations. There is no list of recommended supplies to stock these bins with. Sometimes the keys are given to the district or school, sometimes they are given to the local emergency response entities. The concern is that if there is no consistent set of criteria, the emergency response plans, supplies, and facilities are all over the map. If the Title V established some minimum criteria that the districts could follow, there would be more consistency.

No one seems to be checking on the location of these bins, if they even are being installed. No one seems to be checking on the adequacy of the district's emergency response plans. Etc.

The committee has asked me to give them a summary of the requirements Emergency Response Plan that districts must for each school, in the Ed Code.

They want me to explain what is required by the Ed Code. But more importantly, they want me to explain what is not covered. For instance:

- Emergency Bins are not required
- No list of what emergency supplies each school ought to provide in these bins
- Criteria for placement of the emergency bins on the site
- Keys to the bins
- Accessibility to emergency bins

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